

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Experimental Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

APPROVED Signed by Dennis McCarthy Date: 5/29/07
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Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook Product Description Document

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description – This document describes a new, experimental product, the Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook (TWO) produced by the National Hurricane Center (NHC). This product is a visual companion product to the text TWO. The text TWO is an existing product that describes areas of disturbed weather and their potential for tropical cyclone formation. Areas of disturbed weather mentioned in the text product are highlighted (encircled) in the graphic and numbered, with the numbers corresponding to the order in which the systems are discussed in the TWO. The areas depicted in the Graphical TWO indicate only the current location of the weather systems. Information pertaining to genesis potential, movement, and anticipated impacts is conveyed in the text TWO but not in the graphic.
- b. Purpose - The intent of the Graphical TWO is to enhance the understanding and utility of the TWO by indicating the geographical locations of areas discussed in the text.
- c. Audience – The Graphical TWO target audience includes other National Weather Service offices, media, emergency managers, and the general public.
- d. Presentation Format – The Graphical TWO is a web-based graphic superimposed on the most recently available infrared satellite mosaic of the GOES-East, GOES-West, and METSAT 9 geostationary satellites. The graphic indicates the locations of areas of disturbed weather discussed in the TWO by encircling them. Each encircled area is numbered, with textual descriptions of each numbered system given beneath the graphic. The text descriptions are also presented in the form of a pop up whenever a user moves the computer's mouse pointer over an encircled area. The content of the text descriptions is identical to the content of the latest text TWO.

Active tropical cyclones are also indicated in the Graphical TWO. Moving the mouse over active cyclones in the graphic will pop up a text block with the latest National Hurricane Center Public Advisory for that cyclone.

- e. Feedback Method – Comments will be received from July 15 to November 30, 2007. Comments can be submitted through the formal National Weather Service Customer Survey for Official and Experimental Products/Services: <http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=GTWO>

General questions on the Graphical TWO may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Scott Kiser, W/OS21
Tropical Cyclone Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13126
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

or e-mail questions and comments to: Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format & Science Basis- The location, size, and shape of the outlined areas contained within the Graphical TWO are based on subjective forecaster interpretation of all available data including, but not limited to, remotely sensed data, in-situ observations, and objectively analyzed meteorological fields.

- b. Product Availability – The experimental Graphical TWO will be issued twice daily during the 2007 hurricane season from 15 July-30 November. For the Atlantic basin, the Graphical TWO will be issued at 11:30 am and 10:30 pm ET. For the east Pacific basin, the Graphical TWO will be issued at 10 am and 10 pm PT.

The Atlantic version of the Graphical TWO can be viewed on the NHC's web site at:
http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_atl.shtml

The Eastern Pacific version of the Graphical TWO can be viewed on the NHC's web site at: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_epac.shtml

- c. Additional Information
A full description of this product is available at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutgtwo.shtml>